

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)
)
Revocation of the Educator Certificate)
)
of Darriel G. Kitchens, III)
)
Certificate 157722)

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 13, 2006. On August 23, 2006, the State Department of Education (Department) sent notice to Darriel G. Kitchens, III, certificate 157722, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, of possible action on his educator certificate. Mr. Kitchens contacted the Department's Office of General Counsel on August 31, 2006, to report that he had received the notice letter and to inquire about an alternative resolution. Mr. Kitchens subsequently agreed to waive his right to a hearing on the matter and to accept issuance of a public reprimand. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Mr. Kitchens.

Darriel G.
Kitchens,
III,
Certificate
157722

Initial here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Kitchens holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over seven years of teaching experience. During the 2005-2006 school year, Mr. Kitchens was employed by Barnwell County School District 19 (District) and was assigned to Blackville-Hilda Junior High School as a Science teacher and coach. On February 17, 2006, Mr. Kitchens resigned from his employment following allegations that he made an inappropriate remark with a sexual connotation in

the presence of students. District administration previously had cautioned Mr. Kitchens about the use of inappropriate language.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists for the issuance of a public reprimand to Mr. Kitchens for unprofessional conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

September 13, 2006

I, Darriel G. Kitchens, III, S.C. Educator Certificate 157722, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on September 13, 2006.

/S/ Darriel G. Kitchens

Darriel G. Kitchens, III

Date